

28 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Lunch with @DESSAU on 28 October 1966

1. I arranged to have lunch with @DESSAU at the Marriott Restaurant at 12 o'clock on 28 October 1966. This was the first opportunity I had had to see @DESSAU since his return from Bermuda. He looks brown and fit and indicated that he enjoyed Bermuda very much.

2. Our first topic of conversation was the resignation of the four FDP Ministers from the Erhardt Cabinet. @DESSAU expressed dismay at this turn of events and we briefly discussed the legal ramifications which now face the German government. @DESSAU indicated that no one in the German Embassy had any great amount of insight into the situation in Germany. He commented that the latest information referred that the Bundesrat had unanimously rejected Erhardt's budget proposals. @DESSAU referred to earlier contentions that the SPD should be admitted into the government immediately following the Nordrhein westfalen election debacle. He stated his view that the SPD was in a position in that they could insist upon greater concessions than heretofore. He stated that in his personal view a SPD government was preferable to any situation which would allow the view of Franz Josef Strauss to be heard in the government.

3. @DESSAU took from his pocket a cable from @HOLM which he allowed me to read. @HOLM wrote that he had passed to [] a letter from UTILITY to the Director indicating that because of the internal political situation, UTILITY requested a postponement of the November date of his visit to the United States. The cable continued with the note that @HOLM and [] would get together in order to propose a new date. I thanked @DESSAU for this information and asked whether he felt the situation might have any effect upon the @DEGENHARDT visit. @DESSAU said that he did not believe it would.

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L. Olsen